Abstract

The invention relates to a method of adaptive variable length coding in which a set of data symbols comprising a certain first number of data symbols having a first value and a certain second number of data symbols having values other than the first value are represented by variable length codewords. According to the invention, at least one characteristic of the variable length coding applied to the data symbols is adapted according to the second number of data symbols which have values other than the first value. The invention also relates to a corresponding method of variable length decoding, as well as an encoder and decoder which implement the variable length coding and decoding methods according to the invention.